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THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 1998/72, the Commission on Human Rights invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present a report to the Commission each year for the duration of the follow-up mechanism established pursuant to paragraph 10 of that resolution and to provide interim reports to the open-ended working group on the right to development, in each case covering:

(a) The activities of the Office relating to the implementation of the right to development as contained in the High Commissioner's mandate;

(b) The implementation of resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly with regard to the right to development;

(c) Inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system for the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Commission in that regard.

2. The present report is submitted to the open-ended working group on the right to development at its fourth session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session, in response to that resolution.

I. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AS CONTAINED IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MANDATE

3. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provides administrative, technical and substantive support to the open-ended working group on the right to development and the independent expert on the right to development. OHCHR regularly produces reports and prepares background documentation for the working group and its independent expert. OHCHR has strengthened its capacity by appointing a development economist to provide research support and assistance for the preparation of the independent expert's reports. The independent expert is also assisted by OHCHR in the planning and conduct of missions. This included planning in 2002 for a mission to conduct an appraisal of country-specific studies relevant to the proposed operational model of the independent expert's development compact, taking into account different national, regional or international frameworks, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The independent expert intends to meet in September 2002 with representatives from the NEPAD secretariat in Midrand, South Africa, representatives from the Southern African Development Community in Gabarone, governmental representatives of the Republic of South Africa in Pretoria and representatives of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Stockholm. The report of the mission will be presented orally to the open-ended working group on the right to development at its fourth session and issued as an addendum to the report of the independent expert to the working group.

4. From 3 to 5 July 2002, OHCHR organized in Lima the third subregional workshop within the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean on "Human Rights, Development and the Andean Community of Nations". Participants at the workshop included government representatives, ombudsmen and non-governmental representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The High Commissioner opened the workshop, which considered the themes of "Rights-based approaches to development", "Development, poverty and non-discrimination", "Human rights, development and the rule of law", and "Trade and human rights". A background paper submitted to the workshop contains a chapter on the right to development and this topic was also discussed during the workshop. On its final day, the workshop adopted conclusions and recommendations, including commitments by the Andean Community: to designate an office within the Andean Community to develop human rights-sensitive indicators; to establish a round table on gender equality to promote respect for the rights of men and women within the process of integration; to compile jurisprudence on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights; and to undertake a study on the impact of trade liberalization on the enjoyment of the right to food.

5. As part of its follow-up programme to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance OHCHR organized an expert seminar for the African region, to be held in Nairobi from 16 to 18 September 2002, to consider issues related to discrimination and development. One of the seminar topics is entitled "Achieving full and effective equality through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and development policies". The subtopics to be addressed include "Addressing the challenges of poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and globalization", "Discrimination and the right to housing", and "The role of international financial and development institutions". These topics will be presented by experts from United Nations agencies and the NEPAD secretariat, and will be followed by interactive discussions with Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the Special Rapporteurs on the right to adequate housing and on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, a member of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and representatives of African non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

6. The OHCHR field operation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (including Kosovo) has made the right to development one of its principal activities in 2002-2003. At a time when the region is in transition from post-conflict humanitarian action to sustainable development, the Office is involved in a number of coordinated activities to better integrate human rights into the development work of a range of actors, including government authorities at the Federal and Republic levels, national NGOs, regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations organizations, bodies and specialized agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (OHCR) and the World Bank. Activities undertaken by OHCHR include ensuring that human rights are properly reflected in national poverty reduction strategy processes and that human rights are part of national strategies and action plans to protect Roma, displaced persons, disabled persons and other vulnerable groups in the region, thereby promoting their right to development. Further, OHCHR is monitoring and providing technical advice to national authorities with respect to protecting the rule of law and facilitating more effective

access to justice as a building block to promote and protect the right to development. OHCHR is also participating with other members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to ensure that human rights, including the right to development, are fully taken into account in the formulation of development policy and strategies, the delivery of programmatic activities and overall evaluation.

7. OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been working with the Government and civil society towards developing a human rights approach to the national poverty reduction strategy (PRS). Additionally, the Office has, in coordination with the Government, commenced the joint UNDP/OHCHR Municipal Assessment Project to provide rights-based development assessments of municipalities throughout the country. The assessments will be used to promote human rights, including the right to development, by governance institutions, utilizing the analyses, baselines and indicators identified by the project. At the national level, the Office has worked closely with UNCT in developing a comprehensive set of rights-sensitive development indicators modelled on the set developed for the Common Country Assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)/Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as well as accompanying methodologies by which the State can, at a national level, measure development progress.

8. The Office organized the second African Dialogue on "Promoting justice and reconciliation in Africa: challenges for human rights and development" in Arusha from 24 to 26 May 2002. Among the themes discussed were the balance between economic development and accountability and the capacity of African development initiatives to promote justice and reconciliation.

9. During the Inaugural Summit of the African Union in Durban, South Afri:a, OHCHR convened a workshop on "NEPAD, human rights and OHCHR" on 8 July 2002. A follow-up workshop was organized during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 31 August 2002. Both workshops strived to integrate human rights, including the right to development, in the NEPAD process.

10. The tenth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific region was held in Beirut from 4 to 6 March 2002. One of the items discussed was the realization of the right to development in the region. The conclusions of the Workshop can be found in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2002/WP.3).

11. With OHCR support, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted a statement on human rights and intellectual property (E/C.12/2001/15). In paragraph 5 of that statement the Committee clarifies that the entire range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, as well as the right to development, are relevant to intellectual property systems and that intellectual property regimes must promote and protect all human rights.

12. OHCHR contributed to the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002. The Office viewed this as an opportunity to encourage a renewed commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and a deepened resolve to ensure respect for all internationally recognized human rights, including the right to

development. In the message sent to the Conference, the High Commissioner highlighted the legal imperatives of international cooperation and partnership for development arising from international human rights instruments to support national development efforts. She emphasized that the international community will need to support country-owned and region-based initiatives such as NEPAD, through which African countries have recognized that in forming partnerships for development with industrialized countries that include increased official development assistance, increased capital flows, more market access and debt relief, they must commit themselves to accountable Government, a culture of human rights and popular participation. The High Commissioner also emphasized that the Monterrey process must involve the private sector in finding innovative approaches to improving access to primary health care, basic education and adequate food and shelter, all of which are matters of concern to human rights as well as to human development.

13. In order to improve the dissemination of information concerning the right to development, OHCHR is in the process of redesigning its web page entry on the right to development. Attention is drawn to the new web page entry on human rights and the Millennium Development Goals (http://www.unhchr.ch/development/mdg.html).

II. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH REGARD TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

14. The following activities are grouped according to right to development issues identified in General Assembly resolution 56/150 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/69, both on the right to development.

Poverty

15. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 2002/69 the Commission on Human Rights recognized that poverty eradication was one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and stressed that poverty was a multifaceted problem requiring a multifaceted approach addressing economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels, especially in the context of the Millennium Declaration Goals. The Office continued to assist the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty through research and in the preparation and conduct of her missions.

16. In order to clarify further the relationship between human rights and extreme poverty, the Commission on Human Rights has been considering the question of developing a declaration on this topic. In its resolution 2001/31 the Commission took note of the conclusions of the Expert Seminar on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty held in 2001 and requested the Sub-Commission to consider the need to develop guiding principles on the implementation of human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty. The Sub-Commission accordingly requested four experts among its members to submit a joint working paper at its fifty-fourth session. The working paper is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/15.

17. On 26 July and 2 August 2002, the first session of the new Social Forum was held at the Palais des Nations, focusing on the theme "The relationship between poverty reduction and the realization of right to food". The intention in establishing the Social Forum was to create an opportunity - a space - within the human rights system for a dialogue that would go well beyond the actors normally represented at United Nations human rights discussions. OHCHR undertook a number of activities in 2002 designed to give effect to these provisions.

Globalization and international trade

18. The General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 56/150, reiterated that developing countries continued to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risked being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits. In paragraph 21 of the same resolution it recognized that it was necessary to enhance efforts to consider and evaluate the impact on the enjoyment of human rights of international economic and financial issues, inter alia international trade issues and also good governance and equity at the international level. The Commission emphasized in paragraph 7 of its resolution 2002/69 the international economic and financial issues that deserve particular attention by the Working Group on the Right to Development, such as international trade and good governance and equity at the international level. In paragraph 13 it stressed the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process was to be made fully inclusive and equitable.

19. Since the last session of the working group, the High Commissioner has submitted two further reports on the human rights implications of World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements. In her report on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights (E/CN.4/2002/54), the High Commissioner noted the assessment by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that, while the Agreement on Agriculture was only a first step to more openness in developed country markets, success in the implementation of the Agreement had only been moderate. Further, the High Commissioner underlined the fact that the Agreement does not sufficiently take into account the concerns of the poor and vulnerable or of net food-importing developing countries. The High Commissioner added that a human rights approach to the Agreement would stress the human rights principle of non-discrimination and consequently would encourage affirmative action for the poor, allowing certain special trade rules for the protection of vulnerable people. In her recommendations, the High Commissioner promoted the introduction of legally enforceable special and differential treatment for developing countries.

20. Further, the High Commissioner submitted a report on liberalization of trade in services and human rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/9) analysing the implications of the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). After setting out the basic elements of a human rights approach to trade liberalization, the report noted the opportunities and challenges that the liberalization of trade in services generally, and the implementation of the GATS specifically, posed to the enjoyment of human rights. In particular, the High Commissioner noted that, while foreign direct investment (FDI) in services can upgrade national infrastructures, introduce new technology and provide employment opportunities, it can also have undesired effects where there is insufficient regulation to protect human rights. In particular, as with any national privatization scenario, increased FDI in services can lead to (a) the establishment of a two-tiered service

supply with a corporate segment focused on the wealthy and an underfinanced public sector focused on the poor; (b) brain drain from the public sector to the private sector; (c) an overemphasis on commercial objectives at the expense of social objectives that might be more focused on the provision of quality health, water and education services for those who cannot afford commercial rates; (d) an increasingly large and powerful private sector that can threaten the role of the Government as the primary duty bearer for human rights by subverting regulatory systems through political pressure or the co-opting of regulators. The High Commissioner made a number of recommendations including the need to increase dialogue on human rights and trade as well as the need to undertake human rights assessments of trade policies.

Good governance

21. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 56/159 the General Assembly emphasized the importance of democratic, participatory, transparent and accountable governance. In paragraph 12 it stressed the need to prevent, address and take effective action against corruption, at both the national and international levels. The Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 2002/69 recognized that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist in the promotion and protection of human rights and agreed on the value of ongoing efforts by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations. In paragraph 3 of resolution 2000/64, the Commission requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to invite all States to provide practical examples of activities that had been effective in strengthening good governance, including activities in the context of development cooperation between States, for inclusion in a compilation of indicative ideas and practices. In 2002, pursuant to a request of the Commission to the High Commissioner contained in resolution 2002/76, that invitation was reiterated to States and extended to relevant international bodies, including development agencies and international financial institutions. The Office continues to collect materials and contributions for eventual publication in the compilation, all of which are available for consultation in its files.

The role of women and the importance of applying a gender perspective

22. In paragraph 15 of resolution 56/150 the General Assembly affirmed the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective means to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate sustainable development, as well as the importance of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, including property rights for women and their access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, taking into account the best practices of microcredit in different parts of the world. The Commission, in paragraph 16 of its resolution 2002/69, further recognized the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development. In July 2002 the OHCHR Senior Policy Committee adopted an OHCHR gender mainstreaming strategy, which provides a framework to facilitate further progress in the integration of gender perspectives in all OHCHR activities.

Children

23. In paragraph 17 of its resolution 2002/69, the Commission stressed the need for the integration of the rights of children, boys and girls alike, in all policies and programmes, and for ensuring protection and promotion of these rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities. OHCHR has noted the particular vulnerability of children in developing countries in this regard. At its last session, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery continued the discussion on the exploitation of children, particularly in the context of prostitution and domestic servitude. The report of the Working Group is available as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/33.

Minorities, indigenous people and vulnerable groups

24. In paragraph 16 of resolution 56/150 the General Assembly underlined the fact that, in the process of the realization of the right to development, special attention should be given to persons belonging to minorities, whether national, ethnic, religious or linguistic, as well as to persons belonging to vulnerable groups, such as elderly people, indigenous people, persons facing discrimination on multiple grounds, Roma, migrants, persons with disabilities and children and persons infected with HIV/AIDS, and that such attention should have a gender perspective. OHCHR has been involved in several initiatives concerning minorities, indigenous people and the right to development.

25. Both in 2001 and 2002 the Working Group on Indigenous Populations addressed the theme, "Indigenous peoples and their right to development, including participation in development affecting them". The report on the outcomes of these two working groups is contained in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/17 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/24. OHCHR also continues to promote the right to development as the lead agency in the Inter-agency Support Group of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

26. With OHCHR support, the Working Group on Minorities of the Sub-Commission has chosen to focus attention in 2002 and 2003 on discussing the question of the mainstreaming of the human rights of persons belonging to minorities in national development plans and international development cooperation programmes. OHCHR convened in Botswana, in February 2002, the third meeting on multiculturalism in Africa, focusing on the participation of minorities and indigenous peoples in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies.

27. OHCHR has also strengthened its work on disability. To this effect, it is placing increased emphasis on this issue mainly in two areas: encouraging United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the special rapporteurs and treaty bodies, to pay greater attention to the rights of persons with disabilities; and encouraging the non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of disabilities to increase their interaction with the human rights mechanisms. The first outcome of the project the Office designed for this purpose was the preparation and publication of a study evaluating existing standards and mechanisms in the field of human rights and disability.

Civil society and national institutions

28. In paragraph 18 of resolution 56/150 the General Assembly acknowledged the need to continue discussion on the role of civil society in the realization of the right to development and the role of national institutions in that respect. The Commission, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 2002/69, also recognized the need at the national level for strong partnerships with civil society organizations, including the private sector, in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for good corporate governance. Thus, in 2002, OHCHR continued to promote the right to development in its ongoing work with national human rights institutions and civil society organizations at the national level, in particular, through its programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights. A summary of the programme's activities may be found in document E/CN.4/2002/116.

HIV/AIDS

29. In paragraph 18 of resolution 2002/69 the Commission recognized that measures must be taken at the national and international levels to fight HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, taking into account ongoing efforts and programmes. OHCHR activities focus on strengthening United Nations capacity to address the human rights dimension on HIV/AIDS; to support the integration of human rights into national responses to HIV/AIDS; to provide global and regional advocacy including by encouraging Governments, NGOs, civil society and national and international organizations to address the human rights dimension of HIV/AIDS in their policies and activities.

Right to food, health and education

30. The General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 56/150 recognized that, for many developing countries, the realization of the rights to, inter alia, food, health and education may be important development entry points to the realization of the right to development. OHCHR provides assistance to the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on the right to food, and the right to education, and to the new mandate on the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Additionally, the report of the High Commissioner on liberalization of trade in services looked specifically at the question of the liberalization of health services and its impact on human rights, including the right to development. The High Commissioner's report on globalization focused on the promotion and protection of the right to food through trade in agricultural products. OHCHR also contributed to the World Food Summit: five years later held in Rome in June 2002 and to its preparatory and follow-up processes. The High Commissioner's report to the Summit, The Right to Food: Achievements and Challenges, dealt, inter alia, with the right to food and the right to development.

III. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN REGARD TO THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

31. In its work to integrate human rights into the development policies and programmes of the United Nations system since 1997, OHCHR has sought to promote the right to development as a specific human right.

32. In 2002, OHCHR has continued to implement its mainstreaming strategy, defined to support United Nations agencies in the integration of human rights in their work. That strategy is comprised of three elements: (a) advancing conceptual clarity through targeted research and analysis, the organization of expert seminars and workshops, and the production of relevant reports and publications; (b) serving as a "catalyst" by facilitating the adoption of rights-based approaches by United Nations agencies and programmes; (c) acting as a "conduit" to channel human rights tools and information from the human rights system to the agencies, and practical lessons from those agencies back to the human rights system.

Support to UNCTs

33. Following from the findings of the 2001 triennial comprehensive policy review at the General Assembly and an internal OHCHR evaluation, OHCHR has continued its efforts to increase the degree to which human rights are integrated in development programming at the national level. Through the ongoing OHCHR MASCOT (mainstreaming support to country teams) initiative, the Office in 2002 focused on enhancing support for UNCTs to integrate human rights into CCA and UNDAF. In March 2002 OHCHR convened a workshop to gather further input on the subject from OHCHR field staff, key United Nations agencies, NGOs and donors. The workshop recommended a number of products and policies to be developed in addition to important partnerships to be established, as well as training for OHCHR staff on United Nations development programming. Subsequently, three training sessions on rights-based approaches to CCA/UNDAF, poverty reduction and national development strategies were designed for OHCHR staff to strengthen their capacities in these areas. The courses will be conducted at the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy, before the end of the year. As also recommended by the workshop, three publications will be developed to make human rights standards accessible to development professionals. Finally, and on the basis of the recommendations of the workshop, an inter-unit MASCOT working group will be established with the task of detailing the next phase of the OHCHR support strategy for country teams.

34. The year 2002 also saw the finalization by a United Nations Development Group (UNDG) working group, chaired by OHCHR, of a joint training programme to enhance the capacity of United Nations development staff to mainstream human rights in their work. The proposal, which will be approved by the UNDG in the last quarter of 2002, has three components: a human rights training module on rights-based development for UNCTs, supplementary advisory support to country teams and coordination of policy approaches to mainstreaming human rights in development.

Human rights in poverty reduction strategies

35. In 2002 the Office completed a first draft of guidelines on a human rights approach to poverty reduction strategies, as requested by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2001. The objective of this initiative is to provide practitioners (in Governments, development agencies and civil society) with operational guidance to enhance the effectiveness, sustainability and rights-sensitivity of poverty reduction strategies. A team of expert consultants was engaged to assist the Office with this work. Following the preparation of a discussion paper on human rights and poverty reduction, extensive consultations were held in Washington, New York, Paris, London and Geneva with poverty specialists from the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, development agencies, Governments and civil society. Draft guidelines were considered by an expert seminar in June 2002 and a revised draft will be finalized in the last quarter of the year.

Cooperation with UNDG

36. OHCHR is actively participating in the United Nations strategy for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Cooperation with UNDP

37. The revised joint OHCHR/UNDP HURIST (human rights strengthening) project was signed by the High Commissioner and the UNDP Administrator in April 2002. HURIST aims to help to mainstream human rights in the work of UNDP. The revised programme focuses on identifying good practices and lessons learned for human rights-based development programming. Draft concept papers, notes on good practice ar programming guidelines will be completed in four UNDP practice areas by December 2002 (human rights-based programme reviews, environment and energy use, decentralized governance, and pro-poor policies). Support for rights-based pilot programming initiatives also commenced in a number of practice areas including HIV/AIDS, trafficking and migration, pro-poor policies, and the informal labour sector. As part of the HURIST experience-sharing and capacity-building activities, a seminar was held in Bangkok in July 2002, in conjunction with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, the UNDP Regional Governance Programme and the Subregional Resources Facilities (SURFs) in Kathmandu and Bangkok.

Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

38. In January 2002 OHCHR and UNEP jointly organized a seminar to review and assess progress achieved since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in promoting and protecting human rights in relation to environmental questions and in the framework of Agenda 21. The experts at the seminar concluded that, for purposes of development, human rights and environmental protection are interdependent and that this is now broadly reflected in national and international practice and developments. As the Commission on Human Rights considered that the range of views expressed during the seminar could be useful to the 10-year review of the Conference, the conclusions of the meeting were published and made available during the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Cooperation with UNAIDS

39. The joint OHCHR/UNAIDS International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, published in 1998, provide policy guidance for Governments, policy makers, international organizations, NGOs and human rights advocates on the development and implementation of effective national strategies for combating HIV/AIDS. Since their publication, critical developments have taken place in relation to the right to health and HIV/AIDS-related prevention, treatment, care and support. These include improvements in the availability of diagnostic tests and treatments effective to help prevent, or significantly delay, the onset of AIDS and of opportunistic conditions, as well as increased political commitments at the international level. Thus, in July 2002, OHCHR and UNAIDS co-hosted a small expert consultation to consider a draft revised guideline 6 on access to prevention, treatment, care and support. The revised guideline 6 reflects from a human rights perspective the many recent developments surrounding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, as well as incorporating developments in human rights law and other areas of international law and policy. It is based on good practice experiences which demonstrate that States can save lives, reduce stigma and discrimination, and alleviate suffering by taking legislative and other measures to ensure access to prevention, treatment, care and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Cooperation with UN-HABITAT

40. In April 2002 the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT signed the Housing Rights Programme, a joint partnership to promote the right to adequate housing through: strengthening of the United Nations human rights mechanisms relevant to housing rights; research to enhance understanding of the right to adequate housing; advocacy and dissemination of information on the right and development of best practices for integrating the right to adequate housing into the UN-HABITAT programmes and activities. A publication on housing rights legislation will soon be issued and work to identify housing rights indicators has started. Currently, the programme is focusing on devising a strategy to strengthen the interaction between the treaty bodies and UN-HABITAT. The programme is funded through UN-HABITAT.